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RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

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INFO RWANDA COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 341035

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, PREF, PHUM, PGOV, EAID, US, RW
SUBJECT: RWANDAN VP KAGAME MEETS WITH NATIONAL SECURITY
ADVISOR LAKE1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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DECLASSIFY AFTER: 28 DEC 2015
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2. SUMMARY. IN A MEETING WITH NSA LAKE ON DECEMBER 13, RWANDAN VICE PRESIDENT AND DEFENSE MINISTER PAUL KAGAME ASKED THAT MORE U.S. AID BE DIRECTED INSIDE RWANDA. NSA LAKE ASSURED KAGAME THAT AID TO THE GOR IS A HIGH PRIORITY. IN TURN, HE STRESSED THE NEED TO SEE PROGRESS TOWARD RECONCILIATION AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE NAMING OF A POINT PERSON ON HUMAN RIGHTS. KAGAME POINTED TO THE PRESENCE OF LARGE NUMBERS OF UNAMIR TROOPS AND THE EVENTUALITY OF HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORS IN EVERY COMMUNE AND SAID ANYONE WHO WANTED TO COME AND OBSERVE THE SITUATION WAS WELCOME. HE THOUGHT SOME KIND OF FORCE WOULD BE REQUIRED TO DEAL WITH THE CRIMINALS IN THE CAMPS WHO ARE HOLDING REFUGEES HOSTAGE. ON LAND TENURE, KAGAME SAID LOCAL ADMINISTRATORS AND A NATIONAL COMMISSION ARE WORKING TO RESOLVE LAND DISPUTES, BUT THE GOR WILL NEED RESOURCES TO MOVE SQUATTERS TO OTHER PROPERTIES. END SUMMARY

3. KAGAME, WHO VISITED WASHINGTON FROM DECEMBER 9-14 AT THE INVITATION OF THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HEALTH MINISTER JOSEPH KAREMERA, PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT CHARLES MURIGANDE, RWANDAN CHARGE JOSEPH MUTABOBA, AND AN AIDE. NSA LAKE WAS JOINED BY STATE/AF DAS BUSHNELL, NSC SENIOR DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA DON STEINBERG, NSC DIRECTOR FOR GLOBAL ISSUES SUSAN RICE, AND OSD AFRICA DIRECTOR VINCE KERN. STATE RWANDA DESKOFF AISTON ALSO ATTENDED.

USG ASSISTANCE AND GOR COMMITMENTS

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4. NSA LAKE STRESSED THAT THE USG HAS WORKED HARD TO BE SUPPORTIVE OF RWANDA. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE GOR LACKS MANY BASIC NECESSITIES AND WE INTEND TO HELP ADDRESS THAT PROBLEM. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO DELIVER ON OUR COMMITMENTS, BUT IT IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT FOR US TO BE ABLE TO POINT TO PROGRESS TOWARD RECONCILIATION AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. NSA LAKE SAID WE WERE ENCOURAGED BY THE GOR'S COMMITMENTS IN THESE AREAS AND STRESSED THE NEED FOR THE GOR TO NAME THE POINT PERSON ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND TO

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SEE UNAMIR AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS MONITOR PROGRAM OPERATING SUCCESSFULLY.

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5. KAGAME EXPRESSED THE GOR'S GRATITUDE FOR THE USG'S ASSISTANCE SO FAR, AND ASKED THAT MORE AID BE DIRECTED INSIDE RWANDA' WHERE MOST RWANDANS ARE LOCATED. KAGAME SAID THIS WILL HELP STABILIZE THE SITUATION AND HELP THE GOR TO GOVERN, WHICH IN TURN WILL HELP SOLVE THE REFUGEE PROBLEM. KAGAME STRESSED THAT RWANDANS MUST BE HELPED TO HELP THEMSELVES. NSA LAKE AGREED AND SAID THIS IS WHY OUR DOLLARS 9 MILLION AID PROGRAM IS AIMED AT ASSISTANCE TO KEY MINISTRIES AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. HE ASSURED KAGAME THAT WE HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGING USAID TO GIVE VERY HIGH PRIORITY TO AID TO RWANDA. NSA LAKE NOTED THAT OUR DOLLARS 2.5 MILLION CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORLD BANK ARREARS WAS IMMINENT AND WOULD HELP MAKE AVAILABLE DOLLARS 50 MILLION IN CREDITS FROM THE BANK. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN, HOWEVER, THAT IF PROGRESS IS NOT MADE BOTH ON OUR SIDE AND THE GOR'S SIDE, THE SITUATION COULD DETERIORATE AND IT COULD BE MORE DIFFICULT TO MOBILIZE SUPPORT FOR A SECOND CRISIS. FOR THESE REASONS, WE NEED TO KEEP

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PUSHING.

LAND TENURE

6. NSA LAKE RAISED THE LAND TENURE ISSUE. KAGAME SAID THAT SQUATTERS TOOK OVER LANDS DURING A PERIOD OF TURBULENCE WHEN THE GOR WAS NOT ABLE TO CONTROL THE SITUATION. THE PROBLEM REQUIRED THE GOR TO ACCOMMODATE TWO COMPETING INTERESTS: ASSURING RESPECT FOR PROPERTY RIGHTS AND ASSURING SHELTER FOR ALL THOSE WITHIN RWANDA. LOCAL ADMINISTRATORS ARE HANDLING DISPUTES ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. THE GOR HAS ALSO SET UP A NATIONAL COMMISSION, WHICH WOULD TEMPORARILY TAKE OWNERSHIP OF DISPUTED LANDS AND THEN HAND THEM OVER TO THE RIGHTFUL OWNER. KAGAME STRESSED THE GOR WILL NEED RESOURCES TO MOVE THE SQUATTERS TO OTHER PROPERTIES. HEALTH MINISTER

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KAREMERA ADDED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OFTEN IGNORED THE PLIGHT OF THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF OLD REFUGEES WHO HAVE RETURNED (AND WHOSE NUMBERS KAREMERA CLAIMED EXCEEDED THOSE OF THE NEW REFUGEES). THIS GROUP HAS SERIOUS SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND LACKS SCHOOLS, HEALTH FACILITIES, AND OTHER BASICS.

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7. NSA LAKE STRESSED THE NEED FOR THE GOR TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE WORLD BANK ON PLANNING TO MAKE SURE THE BANK UNDERSTANDS THE GOR'S PRIORITIES. KAGAME SAID THE BANK HAD A LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE AND SENT DELEGATIONS, BUT HE LAMENTED THE BANK'S SLOW PACE. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
AF DAS BUSHNELL SAID WE WOULD PRESS OTHER DONORS ON THE ARREARS AT THE DEC. 16 FRIENDS MEETING. [REDACTED]

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HUMAN RIGHTS

8. NSA LAKE RETURNED TO THE NEED FOR MOVEMENT ON A HUMAN RIGHTS POINT PERSON. HE SAID THERE WERE THOSE WHO WERE SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION WITHIN RWANDA; THE MORE FACTS WE HAVE THE EASIER IT WILL BE TO RESOLVE THESE DOUBTS. KAGAME REPLIED THAT THERE ARE OVER 5000 UNAMIR TROOPS INSIDE RWANDA AND HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORS PLANNED FOR EVERY COMMUNE; HE WELCOMED ANYONE WHO WANTS TO COME AND MONITOR THE SITUATION. [REDACTED]

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NSA

LAKE REPLIED THAT HE WAS NOT SUGGESTING THAT AID BE
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WITHHELD; HE SIMPLY NOTED THAT THERE ARE THOSE IN
WASHINGTON WHO ARE NOT AS INTERESTED IN RWANDA OR SEE
BETTER WAYS TO USE USG FUNDS, AND ACTIONS BY THE GOR --
EVEN SYMBOLIC ONES -- WOULD BE HELPFUL TO SHORE UP SUPPORT
FOR AID TO RWANDA.

CAMP SECURITY AND REPATRIATION

9. NSA LAKE ASKED ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR REFUGEE RETURN.
KAGAME SAID THERE WAS NOT MUCH THE GOR COULD DO. THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY COULD DO A GREAT DEAL, HOWEVER, TO
PRESS ZAIRE TO TAKE NECESSARY ACTIONS. HE SAID THE GOR
WANTS THE REFUGEES TO RETURN AND WILL COOPERATE WITH SUCH
EFFORTS BUT SOMETHING MUST BE DONE IN THE CAMPS; SOME
KIND OF FORCE MAY HAVE TO BE USED. KAGAME ALSO SAID THERE
ARE CRIMINALS HOLDING REFUGEES HOSTAGE; TREATING THEM
WITH "KID GLOVES" WILL ONLY MAKE THE PROBLEM WORSE. NSA
LAKE AGREED BUT SAID THE DIFFICULTY WAS KNOWING EXACTLY
WHAT TO DO.

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10. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

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